




8 WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN



1. Practice **letter and sound recognition**. Practice saying the letters and their sounds every day. (Practice with the letters in your child's name, sing the alphabet song, have a letter, or sound, scavenger hunt with plastic letters or letters on cereal boxes or signs as you go down the road.)
 2. **Read books** to your child every day! Point out letters and have your child say their name or sound, track with your finger so your child sees the direction you are reading. Point out rhyming words or make up rhyming words with your child. Read nursery rhymes!
 3. Practice **number recognition**. Count objects up to 20 every day. Practice counting backwards from 10. Point out numbers at the store or on signs and help your child name them.
 4. Print **first name** with only the first letter capitalized and be able to recognize last name.
 5. Develop **fine motor skills** through coloring, cutting with scissors, holding a pencil, learning to tie shoes, buttoning a shirt, sorting small objects.
 6. Learn to **follow two-step instructions** such as, "Please go get your shoes and then put them on." or "Color the picture and then put it on the table."
 7. Talk about **social skills** such as sharing, taking turns, waiting patiently, standing in line, positive words, and handling anger.
 8. Help your child **take responsibility** by having them clean up messes, dress themselves, get their own socks or have them practice carrying their own backpack.
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